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United States Department of Agriculture,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY.

WASHINGTON, D. C., September 18, 1902.

POLITICAL ASSESSMENTS.

For the information and guidance of all officers and employees of this Department there are published herewith certain extracts from the Civil Service Act of January 16, 1883, together with an extract from a letter addressed by the Honorable the Attorney-General to all officers and employees of the Department of Justice under date November 22, 1901.

By order of the Secretary:



Chief Clerk.

The Civil Service Act of January 16, 1883, provides:

SEC. 2, Paragraph 2, Clause 5. That no person in the public service is for that reason under any obligation to contribute to any political fund, or to render any political service, and that he will not be removed or otherwise prejudiced for refusing to do so.

\* \* \* \* \*

SEC. 11. That no Senator, or Representative, or Territorial Delegate of the Congress, or Senator, Representative, or Delegate elect, or any officer or employee of either of said Houses, and no executive, judicial, military, or naval officer of the United States, and no clerk or employee of any department, branch, or bureau of the executive, judicial, or military or naval service of the United States, shall directly or indirectly, solicit or receive, or be in any manner concerned in soliciting or receiving any assessment, subscription, or contribution for any political purpose whatever, from any officer, clerk, or employee of the United States, or any department, branch, or bureau thereof, or from any person receiving any salary or compensation from moneys derived from the Treasury of the United States.

SEC. 12. That no person shall, in any room or building occupied in the discharge of official duties by any officer or employee of the United States mentioned in this act, or in any navy-yard, fort, or arsenal, solicit in any manner whatever, or receive any contribution of money or any other thing of value for any political purpose whatever.

SEC. 13. No officer or employee of the United States mentioned in this act shall discharge, or promote, or degrade, or in any manner change the official rank or compensation of any other officer or employee, or promise or threaten so to do, for giving, or withholding, or neglecting to make any contribution of money or other valuable thing for any political purpose.

SEC. 14. That no officer, clerk or other person in the service of the United States shall, directly, or indirectly, give or hand over to any other officer, clerk or person in the service of the United States, or to any Senator or Member of the House of Representatives, or Territorial Delegate, any money or other valuable thing on account of or to be applied to the promotion of any political object whatever.

SEC. 15. That any person who shall be guilty of violating any provision of the four foregoing sections shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall on conviction thereof, be punished by a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, or by imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years, or by such fine and imprisonment both in the discretion of the court.

Civil Service Rule II, Clause I reads as follows:

I. Any person in the executive civil service of the United States who shall wilfully violate any of the provisions of the civil-service act or of these rules shall be dismissed from office.

Section 2 of the act of January 16, 1883, provides that no person in the public service "has any right to use his official authority or influence to coerce the action of any person or body."

The extract from the letter of the Attorney-General, dated November 22, 1901, reads as follows:

"Your attention is directed to a circular of this Department issued August 20, 1900, in which section 2 of the Civil Service Act of January 16, 1883, forbidding any executive officer or employee, among others, to solicit or receive political contributions from any officers or employees of the United States, was quoted, and all persons serving under this Department were required to observe strictly the prohibitions of that law, and were recommended to refrain from service on political committees charged with the collection and disbursement of campaign funds. I now repeat the injunctions of that circular, and add the following further directions on this subject:

\* \* \* \* \*

"Persons in the Government service under this Department should not act as chairmen of political organizations, nor make themselves unduly prominent in local political matters. It is expected and required that all officers and employees of this Department shall act in entire conformity with the views herein set forth."



